IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4, and 7-9, as indicated hereinbelow.

Please insert new claims 10-13, as indicated herein below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a dependency between a first and a second system resource performance characteristic in a computing system, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing data values for the first performance characteristic and the second performance characteristic of the computing system; [[and]]

(b) applying a mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between [[the]] said first and second characteristics[[,]]; and

(c) providing said correlation value between the range of "0" to "1" to indicate the relative dependence between said second characteristic and said first characteristic. ~~wherein the correlation value provides and indication of the relative association dependence between the second characteristic and the first characteristic.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein [[the]] said mathematical algorithm is the Pearson correlation coefficient equation.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the probable cause of sub-optimal performance in a computing system, comprising the steps of [[,]]:

(a) determining a dependency between a first and a second system resource performance characteristic in a computing system, wherein the step of determining [[the]] a dependency ~~including~~ includes the steps of:

(a1) ~~providing~~ applying a mathematical algorithm to data values for [[the]] said first performance characteristic and [[the]] said second performance characteristic of the computing system[[;]] ~~and applying a mathematical algorithm~~ to derive said correlation value between [[the]] said first and second characteristics[[,]];

(a2) providing said correlation value as an ~~wherein the correlation value provides an~~ indication of the relative ~~association~~ dependency between [[the]] said second characteristic and [[the]] said first characteristic[[.]];

(a3) setting said correlation value between "0" and "1" wherein the higher values between 0 and 1 indicate that said first and second performance characteristic are highly dependent on one another while the lower values indicate that said first and second performance characteristics have lesser influence on one another.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~analysing~~ analyzing a computing system comprising determination means arranged to determine a dependency between a first and a second system resource performance characteristic in a computing system, the determination means further comprising:

(a) data gathering means arranged to provide data values for [[the]] said first performance characteristic and [[the]] said second performance characteristic of the computing system; [[and]]

(b) computational means arranged to apply a mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between [[the]] said first and second characteristics[[,]]; and ~~wherein the correlation value provides and indication of the relative association dependency between the second characteristic and the first characteristic.~~

(c) providing said correlation value to indicate the relative dependency between said second characteristic and said first characteristic, where higher numerical values of said correlation value indicate a greater dependency between said first and second characteristics.

5. (Original) A computer program arranged, when loaded on a computing system, to implement the method in accordance with Claim 1.

6. (Original) A computer readable medium providing a computer program in accordance with Claim 5.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of [[analysing]] analyzing a computer system to determine the cause of an intermittent system overload, comprising the steps of[[,]]:

(a) providing data values for [[the]] a first performance characteristic and [[the]] a second performance characteristic of [[the]] said computing system; [[and]]

(b) applying a mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between [[the]] said first and second performance characteristics[[,]]; and

(c) providing said correlation value to indicate the relative dependency between said second performance characteristic and said first performance characteristic, said correlation value being set in fractional values between "0" and "1" whereby the degree of dependency is indicated by the higher levels of fractional value. ~~wherein the correlation value provides and indication of the relative association between the second characteristic and the first characteristic.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A method of ameliorating the need to monitor multiple system characteristics of a given computing system by determining a subset of performance characteristics which particularly impact on the performance of [[a]] said given computing system, comprising the steps of[[,]]:

(a) providing data values for [[the]] a first performance characteristic and [[the]] a second performance characteristic of [[the]] said computing system; and

(b) applying a mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between [[the]] said first and second characteristics, wherein [[the]] said correlation value provides [[and]] an indication of the relative ~~association~~ dependency between [[the]] said second characteristic and [[the]] said first characteristic.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~analysing~~ analyzing a computing system to determine problematic characteristics of the computing system so as to reduce the number of characteristics which require further analysis, comprising the steps of[[,]]:

(a) providing data values for [[the]] a first performance characteristic and [[the]] for a second performance characteristic of [[the]] said computing system; and

(b) applying a mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between [[the]] said first and second performance characteristics, wherein [[the]] said correlation value provides [[and]] a numerical indication of the relative ~~association~~ dependency between the second characteristic and the first characteristic[[.]] said relative dependency increasing according to the higher value of said numerical indication.

10. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, comprising the further step of:

(d) providing data values for a plurality of said second performance characteristics, and applying said mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between each one of said first performance characteristics and said plurality of second characteristics.

11. (New) A method in accordance with claim 10, comprising the further step of:

(e) ranking the dependency between said first performance characteristic and said second performance characteristic according to the relative associative dependency between said first characteristic and said second characteristic.

12. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said first or second characteristic is a hardware characteristic of said computing system.

13. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said first or second characteristic is a software characteristic of said computing system.